

2014 TEEA Winner Youth Category:

Connor Crowe, Austin

Connor Crowe, Eagle Scout

Back in September of 2010, there was a flood that swept through here at Twin Springs Preserve. So all along here.

The Georgetown Salamander lives under large rocks and the flood moved those rocks to the side of the spring.

Ben Pierce, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Southwestern University

Connor came to me and said he was interested in doing some kind of project helping to restore the habitat.

Connor Crowe

The habitat of the Georgetown Salamander is very specific and without those large rocks, the salamander can't survive. A goal of my project was to bring the salamander population back up.

Rick Crowe, Conner's Father

The size and scope of this project required a lot of volunteer hours, a lot of resources.

Connor Crowe

There was a lot of prerequisites before I even started it. Recording what I saw and what I needed to do, gathering all the materials and the volunteers. There was a lot of paperwork.

Ben Pierce, Ph.D.

After the site was restored with Connor's work, the number of salamanders came back up and has remained pretty steady since that time.

Connor Crowe

We installed signs that kind of educated the public about...

Ben Pierce, Ph.D.

And what really impressed me about Connor was that he really went to great lengths to learn about the salamander. People have only observed it in 16 different places, all within Williamson County, Texas.

**Gary Boyd, Environmental Program Coordinator, Williamson County
Conservation Foundation**

So this is kind of a crown jewel property for the county as a part of our habitat conservation plan and our conservation foundation.

Connor Crowe

I really feel like I made a big difference in just the environment around here and the Georgetown salamander's species itself.